July 2018

**Key principles for scheduling OPI for 2018/2019 season - updated**

**Background**

DAWR have advised MPI that the phase out of OPI will continue with a further reduction in the number of OPI inspectors over the next year to inspect OPI commodities (apples, avocados, blueberries, capsicum, citrus, kiwifruit, persimmons, stone fruit, strawberries and tomatoes).

The number of inspectors is eight for the 2018/2019 season, commencing 1 May 2018..

Key principles to prioritise access to the remaining inspectors have been drafted below for discussion and agreement by the PMAC OPI working group. These key principles will assist with scheduling the OPI inspectors for the remainder of 2018/2019 season. The reduction in inspector numbers is now such that hard decisions need to be made. Unless industry fully utilise CBIS where it is available as an option, then OPI inspectors will not be available to inspect other OPI commodities.

**Key principles**

The focus of the key principles is to assist with fully utilising each inspector’s time during their six week stay in New Zealand.

The following key principles have been developed and prioritised taking into account the feedback from the PMAC OPI working group. Given that supply is likely to greatly exceed demand for inspectors, the principles have been prioritised based on a decision tree approach to allocate inspectors as appropriate:

1. Products eligible for CBIS to utilise CBIS to the fullest extent possible.
2. High priority for access to OPI should be afforded to those products where treatments in Australia are not a viable option.
3. Products that require mandatory fumigation are not eligible for OPI.
4. Only schedule inspections during the peak seasons and not during shoulder seasons.
5. Product for OPI to only be presented in “windows” of the inspector’s schedule where product is able to tolerate longer periods of cool storage.
6. Restrict the travel distance/time for inspectors.
7. Consolidation of product at centralised inspection locations.

**Implementation of the Principles in 2018/19**

Recognising the characteristics of the OPI’s that would like to access OPI in the 2018/19 year the following comments can be made against each of the principles documents ablove

.1. Products eligible for CBIS to utilise CBIS to the fullest extent possible.

 i.e Avocados are the lowest priority

2. High priority for access to OPI should be afforded to those products where treatments in Australia are not a viable option.

i.e. products that cannot be effectively fumigated such as cherries and persimmons should be given high priority

3. Products that require mandatory fumigation are not eligible for OPI.

i.e capsicums should not be eligible for OPI

 4. Only schedule inspections during the peak seasons and not during shoulder seasons.

This is crop dependent and will be taken into account crop by crop with crops presented in their nominated peak having highest priority

 5. Product for OPI to only be presented in “windows” of the inspector’s schedule where product is able to tolerate longer periods of cool storage.

Products such as kiwifruit and apples can be stored for longer periods and utilise available slots when the OPI inspector is in NZ.

6. Restrict the travel distance/time for inspectors.

 A balancing factor when the above factors are taken into account

 7. Consolidation of product at centralised inspection locations.

Similar to point 6 where this can be arranged it is a balancing factor